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Creative Project Rationale

When first assigned the creative assignment I thought, “Wow, I have no idea what I want to do for it.” Obviously the only logical response to such a question was to drown myself in tumblr’s dashboard, which I successfully accomplished. I wasn’t looking to find anything in particular, but when stumbled across a certain photograph I was in awe. The picture was of a skull on a table, but inside the eye socket was a butterfly whose wing happen to depict an eye. It was absolutely stunning in my opinion. It was honestly hard for me to stop looking at it because I found it so visually appealing. After some thought I realized how well this drawing depicted *White Noise*. One of the main themes of *White Noise* is the fear of death. It lies at the core of every characters psyche. Not only does this drawing show the fear of death, but it also represents how you shouldn’t allow your fears to consume your life, which was how I felt I should live life after reading the novel.

Before I begin to describe how the themes of the novel relate to the drawing, I’d like to describe how I drew the drawing. The original photograph was completely in color, but I thought the picture would look more intense and visually interesting as a drawing if I changed it up, and made the entire drawing black and white except for the butterfly. For the black and white part I used an ebony pencil, which is essentially soft graphite. For the colored part I used a colored charcoal.

In the novel, *White Noise* the fear of death is an extremely prevalent theme. Every character has the fear of death completely ingrained within them, even if the fear of their demise would be considered completely illogical. In my drawing that’s what I feel like the skull represents. The skull represents the fear of death that all of the characters feel throughout the novel. Throughout time, the human skull has not only been an object of study and even beauty, but was also considered a symbol for death and mortality. When we see human skulls we are reminded that we are mere mortals and death is eventually inevitable. For normal people, this really isn’t an area of concern, but for the characters in *White Noise*, they develop an intense anxiety over the fact that they aren’t going to live forever, and that death is not a matter of “if” (because it is inevitable), but when. Thus, the skull proved to be a perfect representation of the fear of death within the novel.

Using Black and white as the basis for the drawing also added to the symbolism represented in the novel. Black and white isn’t only a classic combination of shades that represents antiquity and age, but it also represents a combination of death (represented by the color black) and cold darkness (represented by the white). I felt it was important to use this combination for the drawing not only because it would allow the colored part to stand out, but also because using black and white only augmented the symbolism of fear of death among characters in the novel. The colors black and white are also the same colors that white noise looks like on TV screens. When you visualize white noise on a screen it’s an abyss of fuzzy black and white dots. Every grain of black and white, white noise represents how the fear of death is forever ingrained in the characters of the novel.

The colored butterfly in the eye-socket can symbolize many aspects in the novel, and how the reader may feel after reading the novel. The butterfly is known to represent metamorphosis and transformation. The wing also looks like an eye, which is said to represent visual aspects of life and outlooks. This represents to me how I felt after reading the novel. When I was done reading the novel I had a transformed outlook on life (see what I did there?) This is because after reading the novel I felt that there’s no reason to live in fear because then it could prevent you from doing something you really want to do. If anything this novel taught me to grab life by the horns and seize the day because if the inevitable is going to happen anyways, you shouldn’t let it hinder your ultimate most favorable lifestyle. This is what the colored butterfly in the drawing represents to me.

In conclusion, my creative project not only represents one of the major themes of the novel, but also represents how I felt after reading the novel. The drawing represent the fear of death that is instilled in every character, but it also represents how fear shouldn’t get in the way of your life and you should always seize the day regardless of the inevitable. I want my drawing to represent to others, not only the dark theme of the book, but the light that can come from it if you take a positive outlook on it. As Henry David Thoreau wrote, "I went to the woods because I wanted to live deliberately. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life. To put to rout all that was not life; and not, when I had come to die, discover that I had not lived.”